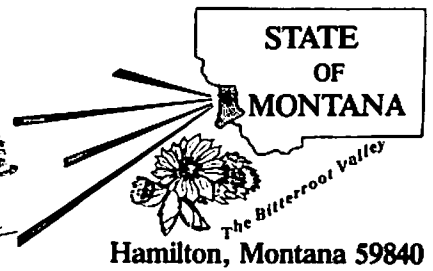


# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT. 59840  
406-375-6500

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May 12, 2008

Montana DNRC  
Resource Development Bureau  
PO Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1601

To Whom It May Concern,

We support the Bitterroot Valley Septic System Impact Evaluation Project currently being considered by your group for funding. The project directly addresses the crucial need to protect ground water in Ravalli County, as our county continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in Montana.

The proposed project will build upon projects currently underway or recently completed in Ravalli County. The project will build upon and enhance the tool created during the Groundwater Vulnerability Mapping Project – a coarse tool that will provide a baseline of vulnerable groundwater areas within the valley. This project is limited by the available data, and the proposed project would allow the Environmental Health Department to collect relevant, on the ground data specifically for the purposes of establishing the sensitivity of the groundwater to nitrate loading from current and potential density. The recently completed Septic Suitability Analysis has also created an extremely coarse evaluation tool. The proposed project will help the county establish a finer tool to aid in our land use planning efforts.

Please consider funding this project in its entirety. It will truly benefit our county, and our Environmental Health Department has both the staff and support to see that it's implemented.

Sincerely,  
Board of County Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairman

*Absent -*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Thompson, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Chilcott, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James E. Rokosch Member

  
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Kathleen Driscoll, Member